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§ 51. **Grasses New to California.**—In examining, in the herbarium of Isaac C. Martindale, some grasses collected in Plumas County, California, by Mrs. R. M. Austin, I found the following species which are not, to my knowledge, anywhere recorded as occurring within the State: *Hierochloa borealis*, R. & S.—a robust form, but very distinct from *H. macrophylla*, Thurb.; *Spartina gracilis*, Trin.; and *Briza minor*, L. The latter species has also been found on ships' ballast below Philadelphia, by Mr. Isaac Burk. I am not aware that this plant has before been mentioned as occurring in this country.

Girard College, Philadelphia.

F. LAMSON SCRIBNER.

§ 52. **Ranunculus Cymbalaria**, Pursh.—I have collected a pubescent form of this species of *Ranunculus*, at Belen, on the Rio Grande, and at McCarty's Rancho, on the Rio San Jose, both in New Mexico. Silver City, N. M.

H. H. RUSBY.

§ 53. **The Grasses of North America.**—I propose to publish sets of the grasses of North America in fascicles of about one hundred species each, as fast as material can be gathered for the purpose.

It is intended that these sets shall be *authentic*, and no pains will be spared to make them so. The labels will be neatly printed, and will contain the accepted name of the plant, the more important synonyms, references to published descriptions, the geographical distribution of the species and the habitat of the specimen. When twenty-five or more good specimens of a species are received from any one collector his name will appear on the ticket.

In order to carry out my proposed work, I shall be obliged to depend largely upon the generosity of collectors and botanists interested in the progress of science, for specimens of species not found in this immediate vicinity. Those donating specimens will receive sets, more or less complete, according to the quantity and value of their contributions. Sets will also be sent to the more important herbaria of this and other countries, and a limited number will be offered for sale to subscribers.

I hope to have the first fascicle ready for distribution early next winter, and the others will follow as fast as they can be made up.

I shall be pleased to communicate with botanists interested in the success of the work here proposed, and wishing to aid in its prosecution; also with those who may have grasses which they would like to have named.

Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa.

F. LAMSON SCRIBNER.

§ 54. **Botanical Literature.**—Trimen's *Journal of Botany* for March contains articles on '*Potamogeton lanceolatus* of Smith,' by A. Bennett; 'Some Recent Tendencies in Botanical Nomenclature,' by B. D. Jackson; 'Some Mosses collected in Ireland,' by D. Orr; 'On Darwin's Doctrine of Cleistogamy,' by S. LeM. Moore; and on '*Erythraea capitata*,' by F. Townsend.

In the *Botanical Gazette* for April Prof. Rothrock describes certain modes of work in DeBary's laboratory; Mr. Rusby contributes notes on the fern-flora of New Mexico; Mr. Greene calls attention

to the mistakes in books as to the colors of some Western flowers; and Miss Banning has some notes on Maryland fungi.

§ 55. **The Syracuse Botanical Club.**—The Annual Meeting was held on the 23rd of March, and we proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year. Much to the regret of the Club, Mrs. Gifford, Vice-President, and Mrs. Myers, Secretary, resigned their offices. At our next meeting the work of each member will be laid out for the coming year. The officers elected for 1881 are: President, Mrs. S. M. RUST; Vice-President, Mrs. M. C. STILL; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. KATE BARNES; Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. ROWLING; Treasurer, Mrs. A. D. FAIRBANKS.

Syracuse, March 29th. KATE BARNES, Corresp. Secretary.

§ 56. **Proceedings of the Torrey Club.**—The regular meeting of the Club was held at the Herbarium, Columbia College, Tuesday evening, April 12th, the President in the chair, and sixteen members and two visitors present.

Teratology.—Mr. Gerard exhibited a specimen of *Fuchsia* leaves which were coherent by their margins and petioles, sent by Mr. James Cook, of Canada, for the Club's inspection; also, from another source, a specimen showing adhesion of two flowers of *Fuchsia*.

Mr. Hollick read some notes on variations which had been observed by him in flowers, fruits and leaves. In addition to some abnormal forms which have already been referred to in the BULLETIN, he noted the following: *Thalictrum anemonoides*, Michx., variety in which all the sepals were green; staminody in *Narcissus poeticus*, a garden scape in which most of the petals were rolled up and tipped with an imperfect anther; *Carya porcina*, Nutt., exhibiting a peculiar distortion of the fruit (specimens shown), occurring year after year near Court House Station on the Staten Island Railroad; *Castanea vesca*, var. *Americana*, with nuts much larger than usual and covered with a dense tomentum; and *Lysimachia quadrifolia*, L., with 3, 5 and 6 leaves in a whorl, and also with leaves alternate.

Mr. Bicknell read some notes (illustrating them with specimens) on some variations in ferns. Of the specimens shown and described, there were some of *Botrychium matricariaefolium*, A. Br., in which both the sterile and fertile segments were variously distorted. Sporangia, both scattered and clustered, were borne on various portions of the sterile segments, while the fertile segments, besides showing a tendency to become foliaceous, were very singularly branched—in one instance showing a well-marked apical division. Another specimen shown was a frond of *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Fée, in which the two basal pinnae were very greatly developed, giving the whole plant somewhat the habit of *P. Dryopteris*. Still another specimen was one of *Aspidium spinulosum*, Swz., which, by the peculiar growth of the axis, had been brought into such a position as to cause the frond to resemble a five-pointed star.

Messrs. Brown, Hollick and Schrenk were appointed a committee on field excursions for the coming season.

Two corresponding and five active members were elected.